



# CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 1, 2026

## GATHERING

Prelude

"Light"

Jacob Ladegaard 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist Sue Ashman

One: The light shines

All: and we are drawn to it.

One: The Spirit moves

All: and we hear the sound of the wind.

One: God's love pours out

All: and we come to be born anew, by water and Spirit, into the Light of Life.

**\*\*Hymn - #29, v. 1,4,5**

"O God, You Search Me and You Know Me"

## Call to Confession , followed by Silence for Reflection and Prayer

### Common Prayer of Confession

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

L: You come with love, O God, pouring yourself out for the world.

**All: We confess that we are quicker to condemn than to love;  
we often restrict your love to those who think like us.**

L: Your abundant life shines with light, drawing all people into new life with you.

**All: We admit that we are addicted to the ways of this world,  
and we often choose to stay in them rather than the ways of your kingdom.**

L: Your Word made flesh reveals your presence among us.

**All: We confess that we see, but as in a mirror dimly,  
restricted by our worldview, bound by what we think we know.  
There are hard things to witness, and we'd rather ignore them.**

**Forgive us, loving God, and send your Spirit among us to re-make us,  
a new creation born of the fullness of your love.**

**We ask in the name of the One who shines in the darkness, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, receive this good news: The Spirit moves like the wind — coming and going to bring new life wherever it pleases. God's love is carried on that wind for you; God's love is poured out for you.

**All: Trusting in God's forgiveness, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!**

**\*\*Response in Song - # 187, v.4      "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

**Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still. (2x)**

## GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

### Word in Music

**"The Promised Coming"  
The Bells of Joy**

arr Sandra Eithun

This piece features the melodies of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" and "Savior of the Nations, Come"

### Time for All God's Children

Wes Millard

\*Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.

Children ages preschool—third grade are dismissed to Sunday Experience following the Word in Music today.

Presentation of Third Grade Bibles

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Sue Ashman

Psalm, and Preface to the Gospel Text

Psalm 139:13-18

Liturgist Sue Ashman

Gospel Text

John 3:1-21

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Bowing to the Mystery

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Hymn of Response- - # 377

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Service of Ordination and Installation for Elders and Deacons  
(see insert)

Prayers of the People

## EUCCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist Sue Ashman

Offertory

"Christ Be Our Light"

Bernadette Farrell  
Arr. Marianne Kim, 2018

You are invited to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering grateful thanks for God's goodness,  
and commitment of ourselves for being Christ-bearers in a world so demanding of renewal and hope.

**\*\*Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

Liturgist Sue Ashman

**\*\*Doxology-582, v. 1,2** "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen. (3x)  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

# SENDING

**\*\*Sending Song- #749**

"Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)"

Blessing and Charge

**Postlude**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Arr Michael Kravchuk

Congregational Meeting

## Art Attribution

Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Study for Christ and Nicodemus on a Rooftop*, ca. 1923,  
oil on wood panel, Smithsonian American Art Museum



To learn more about Henry Ossawa Tanner:



There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

# Texts for The Week

## John 3:1-21

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom."

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' <sup>8</sup> God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?"

<sup>10</sup> "Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? <sup>11</sup> I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

<sup>19</sup> "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. <sup>20</sup> All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. <sup>21</sup> Whoever does the truth comes to the light, so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

## Psalm 139: 13-18

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.

<sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Thank you to Zoe Kim and Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!  
Thank you to John Kim for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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## Announcements and Upcoming Events



### VBS

Let's Explore the Nature of God together at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church!

We couldn't be more excited about Vacation Bible School for the summer of 2026 where we will show kids what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their safe place in life's storms. Mark your calendars for the week of July 6th!

Registration is now open for CMPC families and will open to the general public on Wednesday, January 21st. Registration can be found using the QR code below.



To make this a successful week for the kids of Christ Memorial we need volunteers! Please consider participating in this great church event. We need adult leaders and teen leaders (middle school, high school and college). For adult leaders volunteering for the week, registration is free for one of your children! Please reach out to Laura Jean Graybeal (vbs@cmpcusa.org) if you are interested in helping!



## Update from the PNC

As we ring in the New Year, we wanted to give you an update from the PNC. We have continued to review resumes and conduct Zoom interviews with many interesting candidates. As we do our review a variety of things can happen. We decide if we want to talk further with a candidate, or we decide that they are not a good fit for CMPC. Sometimes after talking with us a candidate wants to stay in the pool, or they may choose to withdraw. And before we can meet with any candidate face to face, the Presbytery checks references and must give us a green light. We are meeting with some candidates face to face in January, which is exciting! But we also want to emphasize that we are looking for the best match for CMPC and the process takes time. Thank you for your patience and support during this lengthy process.

Remember, WE are the church and many good things are happening in our worship, ministry and fellowship time as we search for our next pastor and church leader.



## FISH Bingo

FISH will be hosting their third annual Bingo Night on Friday, February 6th, from 6:30 - 8:30. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$10 for 10 games. The money raised will help offset FISH activities this year. Each winner will receive a prize. If you would like to sponsor a prize, please give or send money to Becky Zordan (Venmo: @Rebecca-Zordan-1).





# Christ Memorial Christian Preschool

## January

We have enjoyed a month filled with the wonders of winter! Especially since the wonders of winter kept us out of the classroom for the end of the month!

We welcomed a local nature program to share with us all about what animals do in the winter. The children had the opportunity to see some special winter animals in person.



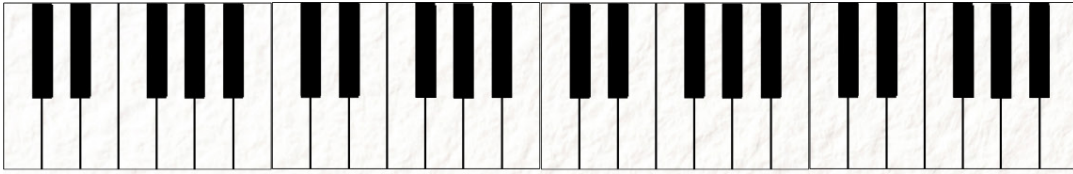
We also began learning about our neighborhood. We discovered all the interesting places around us and made our own map of the neighborhood.

Each class learned about the different community helpers that make our neighborhood special by working hard at their jobs. We welcomed some of our preschool parents to visit the classrooms this month to share about their job in the community, as well as firefighters from Station 14 in Howard County. The 3-year-old class even visited the Arbutus Fire Station where they received a tour from Mrs. Gallagher's son, Ben!

It was a busy month at Christ Memorial!

**"And Jesus Grew in Wisdom and Stature" Luke 2:52**





# 2026 MUSICAL TREATS AND BOUNTIFUL SWEETS

6PM-8PM  
SUNDAY, MAY 31ST  
THEME: NATURE



CONTACT:  
ZOE KIM  
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## O God, You Search Me

29

(Psalm 139)



1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my  
 2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -  
 3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have  
 4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, still I  
 5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I  
 cern my pur - pose from a - far, and with  
 known its mean - ing through and through. You are  
 search for shel - ter from your light. There is  
 life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: ev - er the  
 love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev - ery  
 with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my  
 no - where on earth I can es - cape you: e - ven the  
 won - der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.  
 mo - ment of life or death, you are.  
 pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.  
 dark - ness is ra - dian - t in your sight.  
 hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

## 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.



A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#) in the key signature. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords, mostly dyads and triads, with some slurs. The lyrics are written between the two staves, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus." The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots on both staves.

## 749

## Come! Live in the Light!

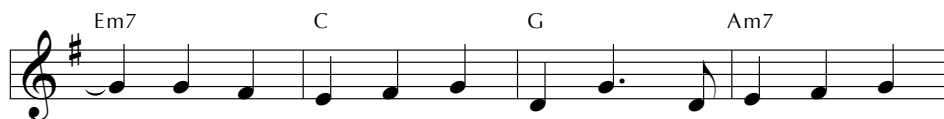
## We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

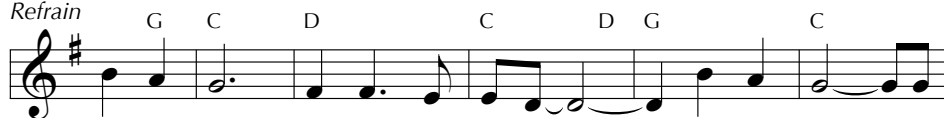


to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

## Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"